

# swna SOUTHWESTER

A Monthly Non-Profit Publication of The Southwest Community Council, Inc.

**SERVING THE ENTIRE SOUTHWEST/SOUTHEAST ANC 2D AREA**

Partially Supported By the SW/SE ANC With District of Columbia Tax Revenues  
Staffed Entirely By Volunteers

**NOVEMBER 1990**

## **DION JOHNSON: MAKING HIS MARKS THRU PICTURES**

Dion Johnson, a fifth grade student at Anthony Bowen Elementary School, has demonstrated once again that "a picture is worth a thousand words".

Dion is among fifty children whose photographs are currently on exhibit at the Washington Project for the Arts. Dion's photographs and those of the other children are a result of a project initiated as an outreach program for children in shelters for the homeless. The program "Shooting Back" was inspired by Jim Hubbard, a free lance photographer, who had been taking pictures of the homeless for years. Dion was one of the first children to begin the program. At the time he was living at the Capital City Inn. Professional photographers loaned cameras and equipment. The children could photograph any subject which they chose.

Many of Dion's pictures depict family life in the shelter. He has been on numerous trips to Maine, and the mountains of Virginia for photo taking opportunities.

He has been featured and interviewed on several television shows including the Today Show, CBS Nightwatch, and Channel 9. Dion's pictures and feature articles about him have appeared in the Washington Post during the month of September, 1990.

The WPA Exhibit will be until November 3rd. When one asks Dion what his goals and ambitions are, he says, "I want to go to college, become a photographer, and work with others to help them just like my friend Lloyd Wolf." Lloyd is Dion's mentor and friend.

Dion speaks very confidently about his life and future goals. Among his immediate plans is a trip on October 20th to New York where he is scheduled to appear on "Good



Rev. William H. Montgomery applauds anniversary

## **FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 115th ANNIVERSARY**

SEE STORY ON PAGE 11.



Photo of two young girls at  
tol City Inn by Dion Johnson

## **CANDIDATES NIGHT**

Southwest residents will have a chance to size up the city's candidates for the general election at the end of the month.

The Assembly and ANC 2D will co-sponsor two candidate nights. The first will be on Thursday, October 25 and the second will be on Thursday, October, November 1.

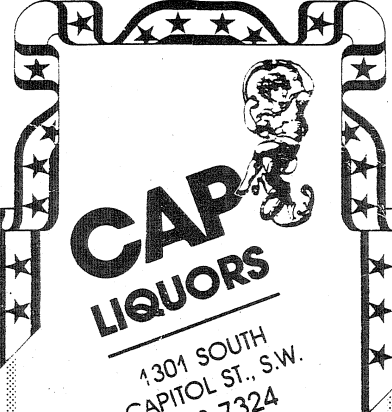
Both meetings will be at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 3rd & M St., SW. They will both begin at 7:30pm.

There will be two candidate nights this year, instead of just one, because of the large number of candidates, according to the ANC and Assembly spokespersons.

The first night, October 25, will be devoted to candidates for Mayor and the At-Large race for the Board of Education.

Candidates for the At-Large Council seat, Delegate to Congress, and the Ward 2 member of the Board of Education will be heard on November 1.

Candidates running for the Advisory Neighborhood Commission will be heard both nights.



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## CITYWIDE PARENT CONFERENCE OCTOBER 26th & 27th

The D.C. Public Schools City Wide Parent Conference will be held October 26th and 27th at Eastern Senior High School (17th and East Capitol Streets, N.E.). The theme for the event is: Our Children, Our Future: Meeting The Challenge Through Parent Involvement. Activities include registration, workshops, door prizes. Fridays session is from 6:30 pm - 9:00pm. Saturdays session is from 8:00 am - 3:30 pm.

## BUZZARD POINT '90

Will the handsome Anacostia waterfront L'Enfant envisioned in his 1791 plan for Washington for "Turkey Buzzard Point" (as it was listed on Augustine Herman's 1673 map of Virginia and Maryland) become a reality in the 1990's?

Bright prospects were discussed by Federal and D.C. city planners, representatives from Metro, architects, realtors, and community leaders October 5, at the BUZZARD POINT '90 Forum. The meeting room on the sixth floor of the Madison building of the Library of Congress overlooks the Anacostia waterfront.

The plan for the Buzzard Point peninsula proposes mixed use, with 20% residential (3500 residences) and the remainder office, retail and hotel, with buildings varying in height from 65 to 130 feet with the lower heights along the river, Fort McNair and residential areas to the north to preserve the views.

The broader Anacostia Waterfront Master plan includes the Southeast Federal Center, the Navy Yard, Capitol South, the Arthur Capper area, the Carrollsburg complex, James Creek, Capital Gateway, and Fort McNair.

Today, Buzzard Point and adjacent areas along and near the Anacostia stand poised for change. The late 1991 opening of the Navy Yard Metrorail station on the Green Line will symbolize a new role for the area, and the realization of L'Enfant's vision.

## Bea Paget

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# SOUTHWESTER SWNA/ANC

## ANC 2D CANDIDATES

### SMD 2D01 (Town Square)

Willie L. Reeves  
1100 6th St., SW

### SMD 2D02 (Capitol Park)

Ronald "Ryan" Collins  
301 G St., SW

Charles W. Hargrave  
600 Third St., SW

Charles H. Liner  
741 - A Delaware Ave., SW

### 2D03 (Capitol Park & SE)

Reva M. Brown  
201 I St., SW

### 2D04 (Arthur Capper/SE)

No candidate

### 2D05 (So. Waterfront)

Linda S. Eckles  
410 O St., SW

Bobbie Fisher  
490 M St., SW

### 2D06 (Carolsburg/River Park)

Loretta L. Reeves  
1250 4th St., SW

### 2D07 (James Creek)

LaVonnia D. Johnson  
1258 - 1st St., SW

### 2D08 (Syphax. Tel. Cour2D)



Former Scholarship  
recipient Emmitt Roberts

## BRASWELL TO BECOME NEW SWNA SECRETARY

At their recent Executive Board Meeting, SWNA members welcomed the nomination of Rick Braswell to fill the vacant post of secretary. His appointment, pending confirmation at an upcoming General Assembly meeting, will end a challenge plaguing the Board for several months. Mr. Braswell has been a resident of Southwest for three years and resides at Tiber Island. He is employed by the Communication Workers Union, the union which represents the workers of the telephone companies. When asked about his reason for accepting the challenging, yet important position, Mr. Braswell replied, "I enjoy living in Southwest and feel that everyone has an obligation to do everything that they can; and I thought that this would be a good way of helping out." The Southwester salutes Mr. Braswell.

## ASSEMBLY HEARS FROM MENTORS AND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Scholarships do make a difference and Mentors find satisfaction for themselves by being helpful to the young people they are assigned to mentor.

At the Assembly meeting Sept. 27th we heard from both groups.

Three recipients of scholarships provided by the Scholarship Committee chaired by Francine Vinson told what they did with their money.

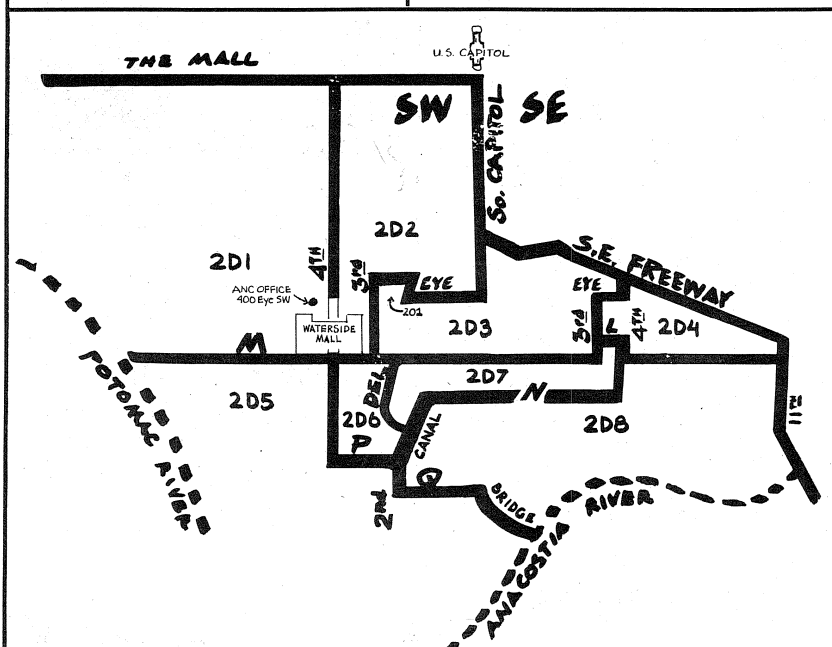
Mary Ann Minus, a second year college student who won her first award this year, told how much it helped her progress in school to have the money for books at the beginning of the semester. This year she was able to have a head start on each course instead of being behind in her reading.

Mrs. Richards, whose daughter Malonda won a scholarship this year said the money had been spent for her daughter's transportation to the college of her choice of New Mexico College in Nevada.

Emmit Roberts won his scholarship several years ago. It enabled him to go back and graduate from college after a drop out period. He went on to graduate from Officer's Candidate school and now he is going to law school. Emmit served on the scholarship committee for a few years and thinks all scholarship winners should find some way to give back to the community. We can all agree.

Mentors attending the meeting at the invitation of Beryl Rice, Youth Activities Task Force Chair were: Delmar Weathers, the chair of the Mentor Committee; Mary Layton, Brian Pettit; and Jamila Hassan. Some of the mentees they had been assigned seemed very self sufficient but one young woman was helped to use Metro rather than the bus to get to work which made it possible for her to reliably get to work on time way out in Takoma. Other young people seemed to appreciate having someone to talk to and inquire about their progress. All of the mentors recommended that other adults become mentors.

The next meeting of the Assembly will be devoted to hearing from the many candidates for office for the next election.



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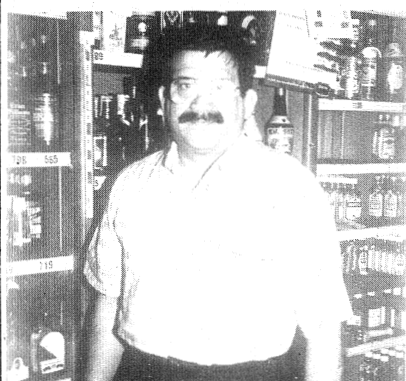
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## PEOPLE IN SOUTHWEST

## THROUGH THE EYES



Harold "Cap" Canter

## CAP LIQUORS: A SOUTHWEST LANDMARK

by Donna Alston

I had the distinguished pleasure of interviewing Harold "CAP" Canter of Cap's Liquor Store located at 1301 South Capitol St., S.W. There are an abundant amount of historical facts at this store. Mr. Cap's father was born in Southwest and his mother in Northeast. His wife also is from Washington. His grandparents came here in the 1800s.

During Prohibition, liquor stores were owned by pharmacists. Every pharmacist was issued a liquor license during those days. The original location was across the street from the present location. It was called Matthew's Drug Pharmacy until after Prohibition. Then, it was sold and named Cap Liquors & Drugs. It's a family business. It is presently run by Cap and his uncle. Beginning in January of 1991, Mr. Canter will be the sole proprietor. It will feel the same because of his diligent work ethic. His blood, sweat and tears are in this business and the community. Cap Liquor Store is 30 years old. When asked about relocating, he said that he would not want to be anywhere else. He enjoys the people and is staunchly happy here. It has been a family business since 1947 and has been rooted on that corner.

Mr. Cap is very active in the community and with the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. He takes time out of his busy schedule for the schools. He is most interested in helping Syphax E.S. His donations help with the Boy's Club, he advertises in the Southwester and has donated money to the Orange Hat Coalition.

"I will work with any kid with a problem," says Cap. Mr. Cap knows many people in the community on a first name basis. I found this to be very impressive. For example, he knows the names of three generations of many long-time residents. He can tell you all the names of Isalene William's family, past and present generations. He has the ability to communicate very openly and has helped me with friendly advice whenever I've come in to purchase money orders.

Mr. Cap ended with these words to our readers, "be proud of what you got and try to make it better."

## THE KHANSIS FAMILY: LIFE IN A NEW WORLD

by Gilbert Leggett

Jacov Khansis, his wife Natalie and daughter Debra have seen times unlike most of us in America. They have found a new home here in Southwest which makes life a little more bearable.

Jacov's story is something which movies are made of. His family has lived in Washington since 1988. He was born in Kisinev, Romania to Greek parents. When Jacov was 5 years old, he witnessed the Russian takeover of Romania. Then, a year later, in 1941 the Germans took over.

His family fled to Hmelnicki, Ukraine only to be detained by German troops. They were sent to a concentration camp in Odessa near the Black Sea for the next two years.

After a revolution freed them in 1943, his family moved to Leningrad. In 1946, they moved back to their home. Jacov worked as the driver for none other than then Secretary Breshnev.

Jacov was encouraged to immigrate to America by his parents because some of his relatives had done so during the 1920s. He was drafted into the military and served for 5 years in the Russian marines. From 1961 until 1966, he lived in Moscow. This was while he was working as a mechanical engineer. In 1967, he was imprisoned for demonstrating along with many other students. It was during this period that he met his wife, Natalie, who worked as a nurse at the hospital.

In 1970, he was released and attempted to defect. Travelling from embassy to embassy, he was detained again, this time by the KGB. He was sent to Siberia for several years. Finally Jacov was released and the couple immigrated to the U.S.

The Khansis found tough times in Boston, Mass. with their daughter who was born on Christmas Day in 1981. Bureaucracy and unkept promises found the family living out of their car - homeless.

The family now lives in the James Creek Dwellings. Debra attends Syphax E.S. and is in the 3rd grade. She speaks Russian and English. Her favorite subjects are math and reading. Jacov and Natalie think that the people are very nice in this community. Speaking about the problems in the area, Jacov says "education is very important. Many parents do not discipline their children."

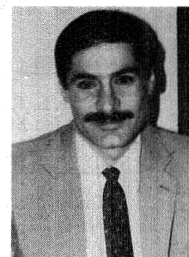
Jacov's complaints are numerous, from neighbors that harass him and his family, to his inability to receive a work permit for Natalie and himself.

With all of the turmoil that this family has seen, they are really warm people who found a way to keep their spirits up and a wonderful smile on their faces. Their culture is different but their world is not. We all should learn from them that life is a classroom and it's people are the teachers.

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# INSIDE SOUTHWEST

## SOUTHWEST PHOTO ESSAY



YATF Mentors (l. to r.) Delmar Weathers, Mary Layton, Brian Pettit



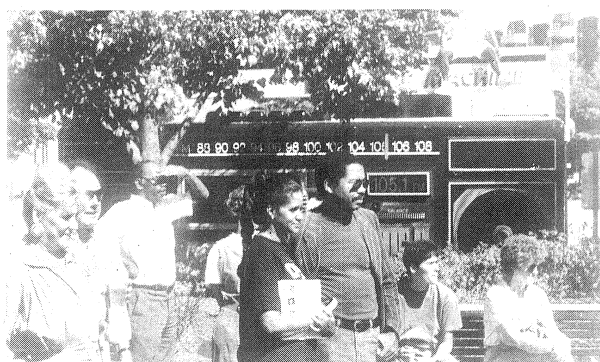
Friends and well-wishers at Randall



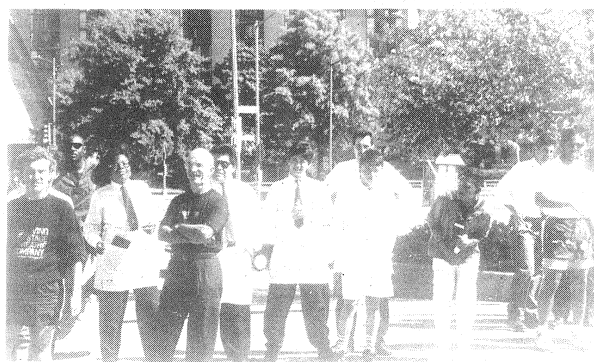
Rev. Parke Streete at farewell reception



Sounds of Music at St. Augustine



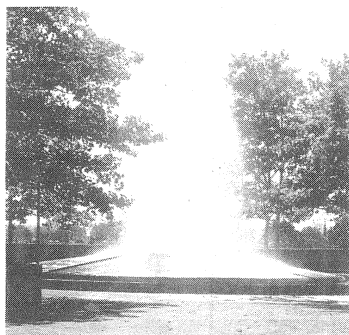
Onlookers at Waterfront Olympics



Waterfront Olympic team prepares



Let's have a Block Party!!



Waterfall at L'Enfant



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Poster winners L-R Crystal Wilkins, Latia Petty, Crystal Ford and Alford Jackson

## CONGRATULATIONS VAN NESS WINNERS

Van Ness Elementary School students participated in a poster contest sponsored by Teen Life Choices. The theme was "Campaign for Child Health".

First place winners were Latia Petty, Crystal Ford and Crystal Wilkins. They are sixth grade students in Ms. Brenda Maxwell's class and will share a \$100 award. Alford Jackson was the third place winner and will receive \$25.00. He is in Ms. Mae Williams' class.

All students participating in the contest will receive a certificate and a T-shirt at a special awards program.

## THE 1990 ART AUCTION

The Art Auction was held on Monday, September 24th at the Arena Stage. The Assembly had teamed up with A.Salon seven years ago to do this event. Time to begin anew. A committee was formed. The members were Thelma Jones, Jann Buller, Carole Early, Dale Mac Iver, Viola Leak, Lonnie Murrey and Margaret Feldman. George Koch (from A.Salon) was co-chair along with Thelma Jones.

After much work, over 60 artists donated 90 paintings to be auctioned off in the live auction. The auctioneer was from Sloan. Her time was donated, in exchange for an ad in the Art Auction Program. Safeway made a donation, as well as International Liquors (they are distributor for Harry's) and Harry's Liquors who prepared a cheese plate for free. We thank all of these companies. We couldn't have done it without their generosity. In addition, we want to thank our corporate sponsors. The Washington, Design Center; Booz-Allen & Hamilton Inc.; Potomac Electric Power & Company and the World Bank.

Talking about help, many people from SWNA & A.Salon spent the day of the auction setting up. Members of Concerned Black Men volunteered their time to help beforehand, as well as, during the live auction. We were certainly happy to get such great support and aid.

Jewelry, dinners, political paraphernalia, old books, 2 leather briefcases, etc. were available at the silent auction. Wine, soft drinks, cheese and a pretzel mixture were served by the refreshment committee, adding to this festive atmosphere was the music of the Maryland Brass Ensemble.

Capping off the evening, was the live auction. Lots of people went home as happy art owners. Prices were very good. The SWNA & A.Salon realized about \$6000 from the evening and money is still coming in. In addition to the Assembly & A.Salon, CBM & The Fillmore Art Center will share in the profits.

Some items that were in the silent auction are still available for sale. They are listed below with their estimated value.

4 prints of each of Washington's seasons (watercolor) \$25 each; Korean hand painted scroll \$50; 2 prints of St. Ann's Parish in Annapolis \$00 & Dr. Teitler's exam & cleaning for first time clients \$77; poster of Vice Pres. Nelson Rockefeller \$30; Campaign Poster-The Man in the Street Likes Adlai (1956) \$25; Campaign Poster-

sleeping GOP (1956) \$30.; Newsweek Magazine (Nov. 1948 - Truman wins) \$25; Newsweek Magazine (Nov. 1944 - FDR wins) \$20; Inauguration (Jan., 1961) \$15.; Time Mag. (Nov., 1960 Kennedy Election Extra) \$15; Inaugural Book (1965) water damaged \$10; Medal in Box (Vice Pres. - Spiro Agnew) \$10.

If you are interested in any of these items, call Carole Early at 488-3355 to place your bid.



James Wallace (shown in middle) at his appreciation party

## S.W. SALUTES A FRIEND

On Saturday, September 15th, 1990, the Willowtree Athletic Benevolent Association held a testimonial and 70th birthday gathering for James Wallace at the Randall Recreation Center located in S.W.

James, a.k.a. "Willie Wild Cat" was a star athlete in track and football at the old Willow playground. It was located between C and Independence Ave. and 3rd and 4th St., SW in the 1930's and 40's. He was also a charter member of WABA since its inception in July of 1970.

After a lovely dinner, friends and relatives roasted and toasted their love and admiration to a friend.

James "Willie Wild Cat" Wallace, southwest salutes you.

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## ANC 2D THE SOUTHWEST / SOUTHEAST ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION MEETING

TIME 8 7:30 pm

DATE 8 Nov. 14 (Wed)

PLACE 8 1000 5th SE

(AC MultiPurpose Center)

Area Residents: Do you have a concern or problem that you want the ANC to know about? Contact the ANC office (400 Eye Street, NW, 554-1795) 24 hours before the meeting and you will be first on the agenda--otherwise you can be heard at the end of the meeting.

## EDITORIAL

### ASK MARION

(This column is designed to improve family harmony. It will focus on helping parents and children better understand and communicate with each other. Questions may be addressed to Dr. Marion Rosen, c/o The SOUTHWESTER.

Dear Dr. Rosen:

My husband and I disagree on the meaning of an allowance. He believes that it should only be given to the children if they complete all their chores, on time, up to his standards and in a pleasant manner. I believe that an allowance is their share of the family's resources and that it should be given regularly, as agreed upon and not dependent upon any other actions. What do you think?

Dear Parent:

The subject of allowances, freely given or earned for services rendered the family, is extremely important. It is a reflection of the family values and family atmosphere.

According to the system of psychology and human development which I follow, that of Alfred Adler, the infant's basic need is to feel significant, to feel that he has a "place" and/or that he "belongs". If, as he develops, he is encouraged to contribute freely to the welfare of the family, he learns to be cooperative. He learns that he IS a significant member of the "family team" and he will gradually take on those characteristics that benefit the family atmosphere.

I think we would all agree that the ideal family atmosphere is one that is peaceful and loving; one in which all members are treated as equals with equal dignity and equal respect given freely to all by all. Even the youngest infant is deserving of that kind of equality. With such an atmosphere, cooperation among all members is a given. Household chores are taken on and performed to the best of one's abilities for the good of the whole family.

No one is paid for making his contribution to the family. Everyone shares in the benefits as well as the responsibilities of living. Parents, generally, work outside of the home and earn the money which keeps the family in food, clothing, shelter and various luxuries. Until the children are old enough to earn money of their own, they are entitled to share in the family earnings.

When children are paid to complete normal household chores, they are deprived of the opportunity to become cooperators. They are being taught that they need only do things when there is something in it for them. And, if they should be prevailed upon to do something beyond the call of duty, they may either demand more money or choose not to cooperate. Either form of behavior is undesirable misbehavior. It does not indicate a child who feels comfortable about his place in the family. He does not have a comfortable sense of belonging and has not yet learned to contribute to the useful side of life.

We have done this child no favor. He has not learned the joys of giving, of contributing, or cooperating.

Suggestions for teaching a child wise spending habits will be the subject of the next column.

Marion C. Rosen, Ed.D., © 1990

Last month we had several articles asking volunteers to come forward to help with the Assembly and with the Southwester. We were very gratified that some people indeed did call. We will be listing their names and telling about their activities in future issues. We still have spaces for more of you to help. Think it over and see if you have the time to give to this community.

In addition to new people, we have two new companies to thank for their help and their promises of future help to continue the Southwester. These two are Washington Cable and Portal Associates.

We want to thank Washington Cable for allowing us to use their technical machines to do the formatting and laser printing for our stories so that the paper could come to you looking so good. Many volunteers give their time each issue in writing, distributing and getting ads but only today's fancy machines can give that final professional look. We have had the help of borrowed capability before but needed a firmer commitment for time than we have had in the past.

Portal Associates joined our regular advertisers this month and last. They have taken the last page of the paper as an opportunity to tell the community what they are doing over there on 12th St., and about their commitment to the future of our Southwest community. We are looking forward to hearing more.

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## ST. MATTHEWS AND ST. AUGUSTINES TO SPONSOR EVENTS

A rummage and bake sale will be held at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 3rd. and M St. Saturday, November 3 from 10:00 to 3:00 PM. Used clothing and household items will be on sale as well as new handmade items and baked goods. In addition, chili, hot dogs, cookies, coffee and sodas will be available.

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, at 600 M St. will sponsor a gala Birthday Bazaar on Saturday, Oct. 27th, 3-8 PM and Sunday October 27, 1-6 PM. With a focus on holidays, there will be gifts for adults and children, games and other activities for children, a clown, holiday baked goods, calendars, note paper, clothings, Christmas decorations and a workshop for making them, a 50/50 raffle and good food -- hot dogs, popcorn, soft drinks -- on the spot.

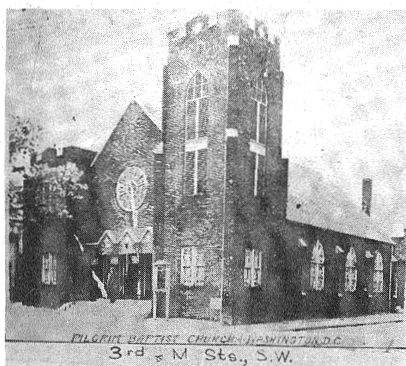
## Prayer for Today

St. Dominic Parish offers Day of Prayer plus Christian Book Sale October 27.

Father Gino Bondi, O.P., will direct A Quiet Day of Prayer and Reflection on Saturday, October 27, from 9:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Dominic parish, 630 E St., SW, Washington, DC. He will focus on prayer.

F. Bondi is the Student Master at the Dominican House of Studies here in Washington. He was previously Director of the Dover, Massachusetts, House of Prayer, a parish pastor in New Haven, and a professor at Providence College.

Everyone is welcome. Interested parties are asked to pre-register by calling the parish secretary at 554-7863 no later than October 25. Complementing the Quiet Day, bibles and other Christian books will be available for purchase on Saturday, at the Sunday Masses, and at the Monday noon Mass.



## SOUTHWEST CHURCHES EXHIBIT AT S.W. LIBRARY

Former S.W. resident Arnold Pryor's display of SOUTHWEST CHURCHES, THEN AND NOW is on exhibit at the S.W. Library. This extraordinary assembly of old photos and historical profiles of our S.W. Churches was on display at the Martin Luther King Library. Be sure to stop by the library and learn about your area and its history.

## Faith

Faith can move mountains,  
No matter how steep,  
And calm the rough waters,  
No matter how deep.

Faith can change darkness  
To heavenly light,  
While leading us tranquilly  
Out of the night.

All this I can grant, with  
Assurance, you see,  
For countless are the mountains  
Faith has moved for me.

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7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 and  
5:30 p.m.

WEEKDAYS: 7:30, 8:00, 8:30 and 12:10 p.m.

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## ARTS

## ARENA STAGE PLANS OPEN HOUSE/BIRTHDAY PARTY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, TO CELEBRATE 40 YEARS

Arena Stage is hosting a free, day-long open house/birthday party on Sunday, October 28, 1990, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to celebrate with the community the theater's 40th Anniversary as Washington's Theater.

Subscribers, theater-lovers, families, neighbors -- everyone is welcomed to join Arena in a fun day of festivities to celebrate forty years of theater and community, as the theater rejoices with those who have been its support, encouragement, and inspiration over the years. Arena staff, acting company, and corps of volunteers will offer an inside view of the three-theater complex to the public.

Activities will include theater and backstage tours of the Arena, the Kreeger, and the Old Vat Room; technical demonstrations; conversations on costuming, scenic design, lighting and makeup with Arena craftspeople; and opportunities to meet members of the Arena Stage company. There will also be programs especially for children including facepainting, clowns, and storytelling. A huge birthday cake will be cut at 2:00 p.m. by Zelda Fichandler, Arena's co-founder and producing director. Refreshments will be available.

Living Stage, Arena's social outreach theater, is marking its 25th Anniversary this season, and will join in the birthday celebration.



The Caucasian Chalk Circle ensemble

## THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE OPENS AT ARENA STAGE

Arena Stage joyfully begins its subscription season with Bertolt Brecht's epic masterpiece *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, directed by Artistic Associate Tazewell Thompson. The play, filled with colorful spectacle, humor and pathos, original music and dance, masks and ritual, features a large, culturally diverse ensemble. *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* began previews September 21 and runs through October 28 in the Arena. This production is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund.

In 1961, its eleventh season, Arena Stage produced the American professional premiere of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* as the inaugural play for its new and current building, which was the first theater to be built in Washington since 1895. Co-Founder Zelda Fichandler, marking her final season as producing director, commented at the first rehearsal of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*: "Critics hailed not only the production and the facility but also the *raison d'être* of Arena Stage, that it was brought into being by a community that wanted it and found ways to create it, to won it -- not just the building but the opportunity for a revitalized artistic life. I believe in community ownership. I believe, too, in the idea of ownership of one's own work, creativity by means of a company and the and the sharing of its work with the community. The thought of proper ownership is one of the empowering motivations for returning to this play as a celebratory launching of our 40th Season."

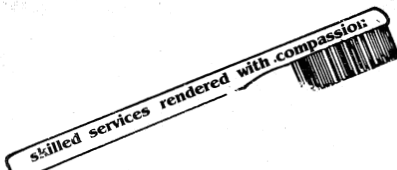
Ownership is a prevalent theme of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, which is based on Klabund's 1920s adaptation of a 14th century Chinese play. The Arena production begins with the enactment of the fable of

Grusha, a peasant girl, who saves the heir to the throne during an uprising. Learning to love the child, she raises it as her own. When later she is forced to give up the youngster, she appeals to an unorthodox local judge, Azdak. With the ancient chalk circle test, Azdak must determine whether love or lineage makes for the true mother -- true "ownership" -- by revealing "that what there is shall go to those who are good for it."

Director Tazewell Thompson noted at his first rehearsal presentation, "The timing of this production is exquisite! In 1961, as the Berlin Wall rose, Arena Stage chose *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* to christen its new building. Here, in 1990, as the Berlin Wall falls, we re-do his masterpiece and celebrate it with an international face more appropriate to our time and place in America's history and certainly more reflective of an emerging new go-political reality on the rapidly shrinking planet we call earth."

The 29-member cast, most of whom play multiple roles, is composed of a number of Arena's acting company members, local actors and musicians, as well as guest artists. Please see attached fact sheet for names and characters. Original music is composed by Fabian Obispo, with musical direction by George Fulginiti-Shakar. Sets are by Loy Arcenas, costumes are by Paul Tazewell, and lights are by Nancy Schertler.

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## FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES 115th ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations from the Southwester to Friendship Baptist Church, located at Delaware Ave. and Eye Street, S.W. in celebrating the 115th anniversary of its church in October. The church also celebrated the ninth anniversary of Rev. W.H. Montgomery as its pastor.

Anniversary chairperson Gloria Ivey and her committee did a tremendous job putting together two consecutive weeks of gala gospel events. Highlights included Youth Night, an Anniversary Reception and choirs from all over the Metropolitan Area. The theme for the program was: WHEN WE PRAY...GOD ANSWERS.

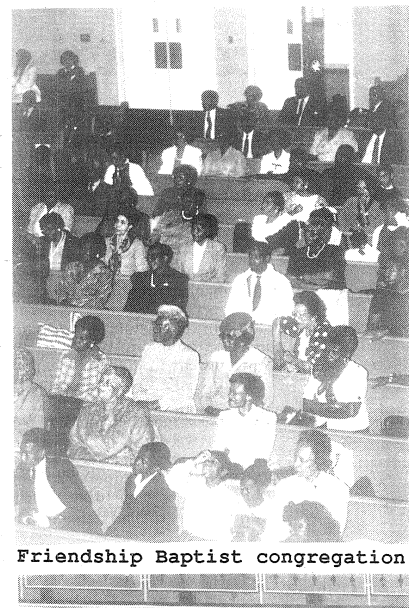
Rev. Montgomery expressed his sincere gratitude to his church family, friends, and well wishers for their love and prayers. The southwest community should be very proud to have Friendship Baptist in the area. The strength and perseverance shown by its congregation is truly a great accomplishment.



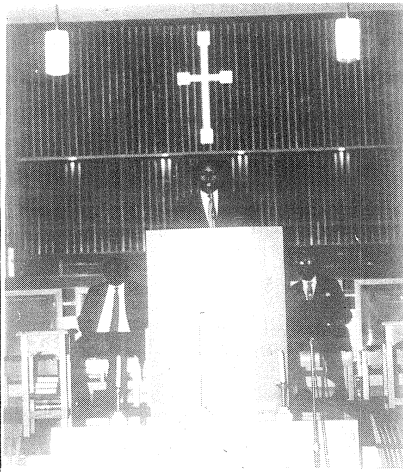
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The Scales family perform



Friendship Baptist congregation



Rev. Dwayne Parker leads prayer



Central Baptist Church  
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Gloria Ivey - Anniversary  
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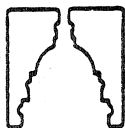
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## THE LAST LETTER OF JAMES H. DOWDY, JR.

I, James H. Dowdy, Jr. was born December 31, 1950 of Elsia and James H. Dowdy, Sr. I grew up as a lad on Boston Road in the Bronx, and then lived in the Lafayette projects until I was eighteen. As a youngster, I was baptized into the fellowship of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. Always full of energy and alert, I made many friends. Unfortunately, I was more given to following my peers than taking a stand as an individual. This characteristic led me to a life style that kept me in and out of trouble. Inevitably, like so many young people, I became drug-addicted. I was successively in and out of programs for drug abuse until 1977.

That same year, I went to St. Thomas and St. Croix, there I helped to manage the family hotel in St. Croix and ran my own business in St. Thomas. Without explanation, I fell prey to alcoholism.

I returned to New York and in spite of having a wonderful lady as my constant companion, who herself had won the struggle over drug addiction, I lost myself to drugs once again. By 1986, I became one of the many drug abusers driven to homelessness. The homeless shelter on West 143rd Street became my home. Ironically, it was next door to a manufacturing plant whose chairman and CEO was my father, James H. Dowdy, Sr.

In June of that same year, I went to my father's office to borrow \$15.00. Painfully, James, Sr. refused, but provided me an opportunity to earn \$15.00 by shoveling sand into bags at Ben's Lumber Yard, Inc. To the surprise of my father, instead of collecting the \$15.00 and disappearing until I needed another fix I worked twelve hours that day.

For the next five (5) months, I worked at Ben's Lumber Yard, Inc., every day except Sunday, 7:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. without missing a day. Management at Ben's requested that I be put in charge of yard loading, and hired me as a regular salaried staff. My father refused at first, but acquiesced when I convinced him that I wanted to move out of the shelter and get my own place.

Four (4) weeks later, I began to complain of chest pains and difficulty with breathing. My father was understandably skeptical and gave instructions for me to be fired if I lost a single day. My father suspected a return to drug use. However, my condition was such that my supervisor sent me to see Dr. Aaron Wells.

Dr. Wells found me to be suffering from pneumonia with both lungs on the verge of collapse, a liver infection and signs of heart failure. I was rushed immediately from Dr. Wells' office to New York Hospital.

## FAMILY LETTER OF ELSIA AND JIM DOWDY, SR.

Jim Sr. reveals that when he arrived at the hospital, he felt J. D. was dying. He told his son he needed to make his peace with God. It was then J. D. asked for his cross and chain. Jim Sr. tells us, "I don't know what J.D. said to God nor what peace he made, but I was convinced, as were the physicians, that no medicine could save him.

On January 6th of that year, J.D. was released from the hospital to the amazement of the doctors. Dr. Wells said he could not believe how rapidly J. D. was healing.

"He came home to us," says Jim and Elsia, "we enjoyed his love as our son, and as his mother and father were reconciled with him."

By February, J. D. was with his loving and caring friends going to plays, movies, bingo parties, and training on computers in preparation to return to Ben's Lumber Yard. During his recuperation, he traveled to St. Thomas with his parents and the Harlem Commonwealth Council's Board of Directors. This provided him with an opportunity to see many of his friends again. It was during that period that J. D. had a chance to see all of the people who loved him and were a part of his life in good times and bad.

The family's vacation that summer aboard the Yacht Elsia IV was the first time J.D. had been aboard in ten (10) years. It was during these happy days of the summer that the pain of cancer struck. Early last month J. D. reentered New York Hospital in severe pain and died of cancer.

The family of James H. Dowdy, Jr., affectionately known as 'J. D.' believes sincerely that God was good to him. He was certainly good to Jim, Sr. and Elsia. J. D. gave up drug addiction on his own and reconciled with his parents who loved him so much. It was not for a long time, but it was a good time and time enough to say hello and good-bye to all of his friends and family before God took him away.

It is the intention of the Dowdy Family Foundation to dedicate itself to helping other young people avoid the hell of drug abuse.

We give thanks to God for allowing us these last, few, wonderful times together.

*Done in Love and Sorrow*

*The Family of James H. Dowdy, Jr.*

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